

A Gifted Jewish Artist

HERR WALTER LENCK

SCULPTOR and architect, cellist, composer and writer—it is seldom indeed that so many attributes are combined in one man. Such a gifted and versatile man recently arrived in South Africa in the person of Herr Walter Lenck, a well-known German Jewish artist.

A quiet man, rather modest, he does not boast about his work, and casual conversation with him leaves little indication of the magnitude of the work he has actually executed, so that it is with amazement and ever-growing respect that one looks upon photographs and reproductions of the massive sculptures his hands have moulded. Great monuments executed by him stand in more than one German town; perhaps the most notable is that called "Jason," a symbolic work inspired by the legend of the Argonauts, which stands in Leipzig. This massive work was awarded the Grand Premio di Honor when it was exhibited at the Exposición Internacional del Centenario at Buenos Aires as far back as 1911. Another notable monumental work is Herr Lenck's "Fighting Mastodons," a rugged, powerful group executed in bronze which awes by its strength and virility.

Walter Lenck has had a varied and fascinating life. Born in Berlin over half a century ago, his first artistic studies were in music, in which branch of art he became a talented cellist. Then, at an age when most men are already working diligently in the careers they have chosen for themselves, Lenck went further afield, beginning studies in sculpture, in which he had long been interested. During the next few years he pursued studies in this branch of art at the Royal Academy in Berlin, at the same time and subsequently learning architecture as well. When he had completed these studies, he practically changed his vocation from musician to sculptor, implementing his work in this direction with several fine architectural designs.

All this time his interest in music did not flag. Continuing work in this direction, he made the difficult advance from executant to composer, which, of all branches of artistic endeavour, is perhaps the most difficult. Herr Lenck's



Self-Portrait of the Artist.

musical compositions were exceedingly well received in the old Germany. He has done work in practically all musical forms, but is especially attracted to the symphony, which holds the greatest scope for the massive nature of his artistry.

In early maturity, and increasingly in later life, he also devoted considerable energy to writing, and is at present working on a vast trilogy, "Emmanuel," which, when completed, will be a musical drama based on the theme of the Messiah. The drama will be in the usual spoken form, musical interludes coming between the scenes and acts, strengthening and interpreting its burden.

Walter Lenck is undoubtedly one of the most gifted Jewish artists to come to this country. He intends making his home here, and it is to be hoped that South Africa will welcome him. On this page are reproduced three examples of his work; a number of fine studies in bronze also made by him are on view at Le Petit Salon, Plein Street.



An Old Jewish Scholar—Pencil Study by Walter Lenck.

Houghton Ladies Active

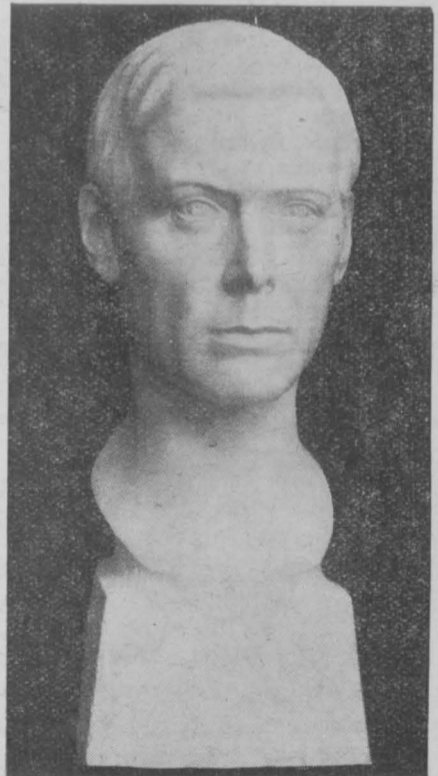
Many Zionist Functions.

The Houghton branch of the Women's Zionist League, continue to hold their fortnightly literary meetings at the various homes of the hospitable members. Lectures on literary and Zionist topics have been given by well-known and eloquent speakers.

A musical afternoon was held on September 9, at Mrs. A. Behrman's residence, Munro Drive. Mrs. S. Steele and Miss Lila Emdin, of Benoni, were the artists who so graciously entertained the large gathering. Mrs. Steele played "Papillons" by Schumann with precision and good technique and the second portion of the programme consisted of three charming pieces by Debussy — "Minstrels," "Clair de lune" and "La fille aux Cheveux de lin."

Miss Emdin sang delightfully a group of 17th century French and Italian songs, which showed her versatility and interpretative powers, also a song by Grieg, "A Lovely Evening in Summer 'twas," and "Russian Nightingale" by Alabieff. Mrs. J. J. Fine, pianist, ably assisted her. A vote of thanks to the fine artists and to Mrs. Behrman for her hospitality was proposed by Mrs. I. Marks.

The above branch is holding a Bridge Drive at Mrs. H. M. Miller's residence, "Threeways," 3rd Avenue, Parktown, on October 28, in aid of Keren Hayesod funds. It is hoped that as many ladies as possible will turn up.



A Bust of King Edward, which Herr Lenck has made since his arrival in Johannesburg.

ATTRACTION AT THE METRO THEATRE.

"San Francisco," which is the current attraction at the Metro Theatre, is a musical romance, starring Jeanette MacDonald and Clark Gable. It is, incidentally, the first film in which these two popular stars have appeared together, and it gives Miss MacDonald scope to display her singing talent. In "San Francisco" she starts her career singing on the Barbary Coast, rises to great operatic heights, only to return again to the coast for the man she loves.